

Rose Staton
Self
LD 613

Dear Health Committee,

In July of 2024, my husband Jay was diagnosed with Large B Cell Lymphoma, with lesions on his spleen. He reluctantly agreed to the Mini-R-CHOP treatment. For the next six months, he endured the chemotherapy treatments, but unfortunately instead of giving him the hoped for remission the lymphoma spread to his liver and he was given a possible six months to live. We thought we had time so we took a mini-vacation just to get away from all medical appointments. We had an appointment for February 2, 2025 with the Death with Dignity doctor. Unfortunately, the doctor had to cancel and the appointment was moved to February 13th. Jay met all the requirements as a DWD patient. He met with the Social Worker/counselor and answered/performed each question and task correctly. Then the required 14 day wait began. Unfortunately, Jay did not have 14 days left. I called twice asking for the 14 days to be waived. Our hospice nurse called for us as well. The Death with Dignity had to follow the state guidelines even though he knew his patient, my husband was suffering. Jay lived less than two months after he stopped treatments. He did not get to fulfill his wish to die with dignity. Instead, his lungs filled with fluids and his children and I watched him drown. Death is never easy for a family to experience. Jay's death was more traumatic for him and us, because the Doctor could not prescribe the necessary medication to bring Jay to a more peaceful death. Jay died on February 22, 2025, laboring for 12 hours to breathe. Me wiping away the fluids coming from his lungs praying for the end to come. It was painful and unnecessary. Please pass LD 613, an act to amend the Death with Dignity Act to Ensure Access by Qualified Patients, allowing qualified medical doctors to assist dying patients without the 14 day wait period.

Thank You,
Rose Staton
Wife of Beloved Husband Jay Staton
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